



CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Imagine Church Differently

2023

Year Book

Centre for Christian Studies
60 Maryland Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 1K7
204-783-4490
www.ccsonline.ca



Diaconal students ready to jump into action!



Our Mission

“Educating leaders for justice, compassion and transformation.”

Our Core Values

1. Acting in faith.

- Approaching theology from a position of inquiry and struggle, striving to extend our boundaries outward in dialogue with other denominations, religious traditions, and spiritual expressions;
- Nurtured by the Anglican and United Church traditions;
- Centred in an understanding of the God of grace, love and reconciliation, for us and all of creation, as set out in Scripture;
- Finding liberation and life in Jesus’ ministry of justice and healing; Empowered by the Spirit of the risen Christ and guided by Wisdom.

2. Living a theology of justice.

- Inspired by Jesus’ reversal of power, his example of service in washing the feet of his disciples, and his rejection of the values of empire;
- Believing that justice includes economic, social, and ecological concerns;
- Founding our work and relationships in values of mutuality, equality, and respect;
- Acknowledging our churches’ culpability in unjust practices and seeking to redress them;
- Responding to the prophetic and gospel call to share resources, to restore what was taken, to reconcile what was divided, to embrace those who have been excluded.

3. Educating through action/reflection, integration, transformation.

- Believing that education is most effective when it engages the whole person, when we are co-learners and co-teachers, and when it is relevant and collaborative;
- Valuing education that is self-directed and relational, affirming and evaluative;
- Dedicated to forming learning communities as the foundation to our approach to education.

4. Grounding ourselves in sacred community.

- Fostering community-building that challenges individualism and egotism;
- Intentional about creating life-giving communities of learning as a context for growth, shared wisdom, hospitality, support, and accountability;
- Seeking to create communities that are inclusive, respectful, and diverse.

5. Living out of a spirit of abundance and gratitude.

- Our beginning was made possible by gifts from major donors who believed in the founding vision of our school;
- Our present and future is made possible by donations from graduates and Friends, and by grants from institutional supporters;
- We rely for our governance and program on a company of volunteers who give and give back to CCS as members of our Central Council, Committees, and working groups; as learning facilitators, mentors, and supporters for our students.

6. Participating in a larger story.

- Nurtured by a worldwide, ecumenical network of deacons and diaconal ministers from many traditions; Sharing values and vision of faith, justice, education, service and community with many movements, institutions, and communities;
- Learning through active involvement in movements for justice;
- Fostering partnerships of solidarity for common cause.

CCS Staff

Principal	-	Alan Lai
Program Staff	-	Janet Ross
Program Staff	-	Marcie Gibson
Program Staff	-	Alcris Limongi
Program Coordinator	-	Scott Douglas
Development Coordinator	-	Lori Stewart
Office Administrator	-	Cheryl Thiessen



Central Council

UCC co-Chair	-	Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes
ACC co-Chair	-	Michael Shapcott
Diaconal Alumni	-	Megumi Matsuo Saunders
Diaconal Student	-	Lauri Ladd
Treasurer	-	Karen Stuart
Staff Support	-	Mona Denton
Program rep	-	Charmain Bailey
Recording Sec. (non-voting)	-	Janet Nield
Principal (non-voting)	-	Alan Lai
Staff rep (non-voting)	-	Cheryl Thiessen

Above: CCS staff at the 2023 staff retreat

Below: Central Council members meet with staff at the 2023 Face-to-Face meeting.



Students

Diaconal Ministries Program

Active in 2022-2023

Allison Abuloc
 Letitia Berger
 Lisa Byer-de Wever
 Jennifer Carter-Morgan
 Pat Chabluk
 Mitch Creedy (Inactive)
 Lesley Fairley (Inactive)
 Meghan Gilholm (Inactive)
 Kim Inglis
 Lauri Ladd
 Dan Leaver
 Lisa Leffler
 Colleen Lowrie (NEW!)
 Heather MacKinnon
 Dyanne Marlok
 Jamie Miller (NEW!)
 Kendra Mitchell-Foster
 Rob Murdock
 Hyerim Park
 Ally Philips (NEW!)
 Kristie Pilling
 Jennifer Prince
 Caitlin Smithers
 Miriam Stobbe-Weibe
 Susan Toller
 Alicia Walls

Active in 2023-2024

Allison Abuloc
 Letitia Berger
 Lisa Byer-de Wever
 Jennifer Carter-Morgan (Inactive)
 Mitch Creedy
 Lynda Brind-Dickson (NEW!)
 Kim Inglis
 Lauri Ladd
 Dan Leaver
 Lisa Leffler
 Colleen Lowrie (Inactive)
 Heather MacKinnon
 Jamie Miller
 Kendra Mitchell-Foster
 Rob Murdock
 Hyerim Park
 Ally Philips
 Kristie Pilling
 Caitlin Smithers
 Miriam Stobbe-Weibe
 Susan Toller
 Alicia Walls
 Sarah Williams (NEW!)

Certificate Programs

Active in 2023

Anglican Certificate in Diaconal Ministry:

Cassandra Golondrina
 Carl Harrison (Inactive)

Certificate in Social Justice:

Gloria Tozek
 Andy Pitter

2023-2024

Integration year students:

Dan Leaver
 Kendra Mitchell-Foster
 Rob Murdock
 Susan Toller
 Alicia Walls

Continuing Studies Program

Active in 2023

Jason Byassee
Whitton Daley
Michael Kalito
Pamela Girardi
Liberty Maadza
Eliza Meggs
David Mugadzi
Emmah Mutisi
Lawrence Muvunzi
Martin Mwale
Elijah Mwandila
Sourav Nag
Mary Nichol
Deepak Nitesh Yohan
Prince Nkhoswe
Lexina Nyirenda
Togbeola Olubisi
Christopher Ryan
Vanessa Spence
Jennifer Stinson



Gloria Tozek (right) received the Certificate in Social Justice in 2023.

2023 Graduates

2023 Graduates:

Diploma in Diaconal Ministries

Pat Chabluk
Dyanne Marlok
Jennifer Prince

Certificate in Social Justice

Gloria Tozek

*Diaconal grads Dyanne Marlok,
Pat Chabluk, and Jennifer Prince*



Courses and Circles 2023



Praxis 22-23

Sept 2022 – May 2023
Enrollment – 22



Field 22-23

Sept 2022 – May 2023
Enrollment – 9



Living Scripture

Jan 10 – Feb 16, 2023 (online)
Enrollment – 9



Worship

Apr 12 – 18, 2023 (in-person)
Enrollment – 8



Integration 3 (final circle)

Apr 17 – 22, 2023 (in-person)
Enrollment – 3



Right Relations

Apr 20 – 26, 2023 (in-person)
Enrollment – 7



Ministry as Listening

May 9 – Jun 15, 2023 (online)
Enrollment – 8



UCC Admissions Circle

Aug 21 – Apr 21, 2023 (online)
Enrollment – 14



Learning on Purpose

Jun 19 – 30, 2022, Winnipeg, MB
(in-person)
Enrollment – 3



Praxis 23-24

Sept 2023 – May 2024
Enrollment – 22



Field 23-24

Sept 2023 – May 2024
Enrollment – 12



Integration 1

Sept 18 – 23, 2023 (in person)
Enrollment - 5



Integration 2

Oct 2023 – Apr 2024(online)
Enrollment - 5



Ministry as Storytelling

Oct 11 – 17, 2023 (in person)
Enrollment - 8



Spiritual Practice

Oct 19 – 25, 2023 (in person)
Enrollment - 4

2023 in Pictures



Left: Living Scripture 2023 students showing off their favourite interpretive tools

Below : Some of the Ministry as Listening 2023 students show off their listening skills.

Below: Ministers from other denominations learn about the United Church of Canada at the UCC Admissions Orientation Circle 2023.





Left: Right Relations 2023.

Below: walking the four directions at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, hanging with UCC Moderator Carmen Lansdowne, Carmen discussing intercultural reconciliation with Wenh-In Ng, preparing food together with SSSC students





Left: Worship 2023.

Below: Foolish Worship. The continuing education workshop with Claudio Carvalhaes brought participants from across the country.



Right: Learning on Purpose 2023.



Below: Integrating Year 23-24 students at Woodsworth House and at the MB Legislature in support of trans kids; Ministry as Storytelling 2023; Spiritual Practice 2023 students walk the labyrinth



Field Placements in 2023

1 JustCity West End Drop in, Winnipeg, MB
 Anishnabeg Outreach, Kitchener, ON
 Brechin United, Nanaimo, BC
 Busby Centre, Barrie, ON
 Centre for Practical Theology, London, ON
 Church of St Andrew & St David, St John, NB
 Courageous Community, Port Alberni, BC
 Eagle Ridge United, Coquitlam, BC
 Fotheringham McDougall Funeral Services,
 Watrous, SK
 Interfaith Spiritual Care Centre at the University
 of Northern BC, Prince George, BC
 Northern Spirit Region, AB
 Parkdale United, Calgary, AB
 Prince George Regional Correctional Centre,
 Prince George, BC
 Samaritan House Ministries, Brandon, MB
 Trillium United, St Catharines, ON
 Trinity United Manitoulin, Mindemoya, ON
 Valley Community Learning Association,
 Kentville, NS

Learning Facilitators

Dave Anderson
 John Benham
 Sally Budge
 Jane Capstick
 Heather Empey
 Janice Frame
 Phyllis Greenslade
 William Haughton
 Carolyn Landry
 Barb McGill
 Tif McNaughton
 Al Mosewich
 Karen Orlandi
 Lillian Robinson
 Stewart Smith
 Erwin Thompson
 Josh Ward
 Greg Wiebe
 Kim Holmes-Younger



Diaconal Mentors

Tammy Bleue
 Susan Butler-Jones
 Terrie Chedore
 Leila Currie
 Brenda Curtis
 Ken DeLisle
 Kathy Douglas
 Linda Ervin
 Tracy Fairfield
 Barbara Hansen
 Jim Hatt
 Laura Hunter
 Kimiko Karpoff
 Mark Laird

Marion Martin
 Sherri McConnell
 Barb McGill
 Karen Orlandi
 Michelle Owens
 Rebecca Pike
 Tracy Robertson
 Judy Steers
 Karen Tjaden
 Kathy Toivanen
 Eric Tusz – King
 Aileen Urquhart
 Jackie Van't Voort
 Carey Wagner



CCS Fridays (and other events)

Our series of free online workshops and discussions.

January – Universal Christ Through the Lens of Daoism (with Min-Goo Kang)

February – The Power of the Tithe (with Glenn Morison)

February – Black and Diaconal (with Marlene Britton, Lisa Byer-de Wever, and Aldith Baker)

February – A Celebration of African/Caribbean Heritage in Canada (with Therese Samuel, Monica Walters-Field, Marlene Britton, and Lisa Byer de Wever)

March – Addiction and Faith (with Ed Treat)

May – Who is Asian (with Alan Lai, Hyerim Park, Emo Yango, and Sandy Hwang)

October – Diakonia During Climate Crisis (with Eric Tusz-King and Katrina Martich)

November – Loneliness in Ministry (with Tracy Fairfield)

December – Youth, Climate Change, and Mental Health (with Amy Crawford)



Wenh-In Ng

2023 Companion of the Centre

Greer Anne Wenh-In Ng (吳詠嫻 Wu Yong-yan) was presented with the Companion of the Centre award at the Annual Service of Celebration on April 26, 2023.

Introduction from the 2023 ASC:
(delivered by Interim Principal Alan Lai)

Wenh-In is an ordained United Church minister, an educator, and an advocate for anti-racism and interculturalism. She was ordained by Toronto Conference in 1986 and received an honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity from Victoria University in 2010. She is described by one of the people who nominated her as “a fabulous educator” who specializes in “helping students overcome their own biases to engage others who are different, especially those who are historically marginalized.”

Born and raised in the former British colony of Hong Kong, Wenh-In became grounded in global citizenship via a childhood in Macau and Hanoi. Secondary education in mission schools grounded her in pre-Vatican II Christianity, later expanded by the Reformed faith of the China Congregational Church in Hong Kong. Following two post-secondary degrees at the University of Hong Kong, Wenh-In found her fluid sense of “home” reinforced by doctoral study years at Columbia University in New York City, while her ecumenical awareness blossomed in neighbouring Union Theological Seminary. Both were strengthened by several years as a lecturer at Trinity Theological College in Singapore. Upon her young family’s move to Canada, she brought these strands of herself into her first contributions as a writer of mission education and church school curricular resources in the final “simplified” phase of The United Church of Canada’s Core ‘New’ Curriculum.

This integration of church education and theological education has characterized Wenh-In’s subsequent teaching-learning ministries – five years as Christian Development Officer of Hamilton Conference (1981-86), nine years at the Vancouver School of Theology (1986-1995), and until her retirement in 2002, at Emmanuel College, Victoria University in the University of Toronto. Other characteristics include practising and teaching a feminist, liberative pedagogy, enabling and leading Bible study based on postcolonial biblical interpretation, preaching and liturgical development from intercultural and inclusive (including Asian/North American Asian) perspectives, and incorporating a justice dimension in all societal and ecclesial endeavours.

This last conviction was lived out in her interim position as General Council Minister for Racial Justice, and as Toronto Conference’s Conference Minister for Social Justice and Ethnic Ministries



(2005-2009), in her continuing involvement on CEARN (Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network), and in contributing a chapter addressing anti-Asian hate and violence to a new edition of *Injustice and the Care of Souls* (Fortress Press 2023).

Wenh-In is a trailblazer! She is one of the first ordained women of Chinese descent in the United Church of Canada, the first Chinese to be made a tenured professor at Emmanuel College, and the first Chinese faculty at Vancouver School of Theology. She was one of the first Chinese scholar to be elected President of the Religious Education Association (2000-2001). And now, the first woman of Chinese heritage ever to receive this Companion award.

Wenh-In loves mentoring and nurturing younger 'minority' students and younger scholars, especially those who often lack support in their own 'majority' institutions in both the US and in Canada, as a faculty advisor in the movement PANAAWTM (Pacific Asian North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry).

Wenh-In has participated in conferences and lectured at many different Protestant Denominations in Canada and the USA; and internationally in China, Thailand, and at the World Council of Churches Centre in Bossey, Switzerland.

These days, Wenh-In stays connected to Emmanuel College by co-chairing its Committee on Asian/North American Asian Theologies (CANAAT) in Emmanuel's multifaith Centre for Religion and Its Contexts. To sustain herself, Wenh-In practises an embodied spirituality by engaging daily in the Eighteen Movements of Taiji-Qigong, supplemented by Chinese brush calligraphy, and writing hymns. Her current goal is learning how to be a worthy elder and, eventually, become a good ancestor.

Wenh-In was the first Chinese-descent professor teaching religious education at Vancouver School of Theology; I succeeded after her as the second. I come to know Wenh-In as a passionate educator of racial justice, equality, and Asian theologies. Kind and approachable; Dr. Ng believes in students' potential and patiently guides them to their own journey of discoveries. One needs to listen to her and feel her passion in burning issues such as post-colonialism, LBGTQ2+, migration and so on.

Wenh-In isn't a diaconal minister. But she is CCS's friend, ally, and companion in the truest sense of the word. She promotes justice learning, intercultural ministry, inclusive practices and anti-racism and many other areas of Christian service in a different platform. She did it in an environment that educates practitioners and scholars alike. That platform isn't antithetical to what the CCS does. Quite the opposite, academic vigor and practical-reflective actions are interrelated. One can't truly live out one's presupposed mission without the wisdom of the other. Dr. Ng has done a wonderful service to the mission of the United Church of Canada. She has prepared passionate leaders to serve in a chaotic and confusing world such as ours. And because of Wenh-In's contributions and dedication to the vision of justice and equity, the United Church of Canada is blessed to have reached this current stage when we are actively pursuing anti-racism not just in the society at large, but within the four walls of the church. She has done her parts to shape the church in fostering intercultural leadership, and she continues to challenge us all to relate to one another through the lens of equity.

I am fortunate to call Dr. Wenh-In Ng my colleague, elder, and friend. She has made tremendous impact in the theological world, practices of educational ministry, and religious

communities beyond the United Church of Canada. She is such an inspiration to so many people. We at the Centre of Christian Studies are delighted to give this year's Companion of the Centre Award to her.

In Memoriam

Grads, donors, and other friends of CCS who died in 2023:

Laura Balas	(Donor)
Paul Campbell	(Volunteer)
Barbara Curzon	(UCC 1994)
Helen Hume	(UCC 1988)
June Lockhart	(UCC 1958)
Cam Mackie	(Volunteer)
Shirley Munro	(UCC 1958)
Michael Peers	(Friend)
Esmin Peters	(ACC 1961)
Valerie Reed	(UCC 1984)
Diane Trollope	(UCC 1970)
Dawn Wood	(UCC 1986)

